

About the FREP Information Management System

Project Manager's Update (December 14, 2006)

User Acceptance Testing: UAT for FREP IMS was conducted on November 27 and 28th, as planned, and despite the fact that many of us were snowed in. In fact, we turned the situation into an advantage by having everyone who could get to a computer test the system by running through the scripts at the same time, while we listened to each other on conference call. This seemed to work out very well, with everyone able to discuss problems and suggestions as they arose. Thanks to all of you who participated! We will be having another round of testing in January; if anyone else wishes to help out next round, please contact me.

Field Data Entry: We have hired a company called ELAN Data Makers to enter data from the field cards into the system. To date we have received just over 700 checklists, and about a third have been entered into the system. Our goal is to have the rest entered by the end of December so that data analysis can begin in January. As a bonus, ELAN's activities have proven to be good testing for the system, which should help us improve FREP IMS for you.

Production Release 1 of FREP IMS: In our last update, we indicated that we would have a limited release of FREP IMS in December of 2006. While user testing was conducted on time according to our last schedule, we have had to re-work our plan because of technical delays outside of the control of the FREP IMS Working Group. Thus the first release to Production will now take place at the end of January. This will not affect the Resource Value Team Leads' ability to conduct analysis - this will be done using the database ELAN is working with.

Training on FREP IMS: We won't be training on this first release because we want to bring out a second release with a few more features in it before we begin training. In addition, we need time to verify that the production data is fully available and that reports work correctly. We expect a second release in mid April, which will be the one we train on, hopefully in conjunction with your field training.

Field Data Entry (Handhelds): We have just received a report conducted by VIVID Solutions on the options available for field data entry. Unfortunately, none of the tools currently on the market completely meet your requirements:

- If the tool is a good size with reasonable computing power, it's too heavy and/or not ruggedized and it has a battery that lasts only two hours
- If it is rugged and with a good battery, the screen is like a postage stamp and does not have much computing power.

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In addition to the fact that the exact right tool for this project does not seem to be available at this time, VIVID's report made clear that the cost of purchasing the tools is only ¼ of the cost of maintaining them, and that's not counting development of the software that needs to go on them. As a result of these findings, the FREP IMS Working Group needs to do some cost/benefit analysis work to help us decide how to proceed. We will present this work to you at the FREP workshop in February. Please feel free to review VIVID's report, available on our Sharepoint site at: https://sharepoint.forests.gov.bc.ca/FREP_wg/default.aspx or contact me directly for a copy.

High Level Project Plan

January 2-9, 2007	December 31 2006	February 5 2007	January 1 February 27	February 28 March 1	April 30, 2007
User Acceptance/ Quality Assurance Testing Round 2	Field Data Entry complete	FREP IMS Release 1 is live in Production	Correction and Analysis at Branch	Branch staff report out at annual meeting	FREP IMS Release 2 is live in Production

What's Coming In Release 2

We're looking at that right now and are just confirming the production date but we're aiming for April 30th. We are hoping to be able to provide:

- improvements suggested by users during Release 1 of UAT
- more reporting capability
- a first cut at the Water Quality checklist.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Frank Barber
Project Manager FREP IMS

FREP IMS Project Background

The purpose of the Forests and Range Evaluation Program (FREP) is to determine if forest and range practices, policies and legislation in British Columbia are achieving government's objectives for FRPA resource values, with a priority on environmental parameters and consideration for social and economic parameters where appropriate.

To help realize this, the *FREP Information Management System Working Group* was formed to provide guidance toward development and implementation of a province-wide information management system that will be used by a wide variety of stakeholders. The Working Group is committed to producing a user-friendly, quality-assured product through a participatory process involving the districts, regions and headquarters staff.

The requirements gathering phase took place during 2005. Two district workshops were held in each region during the fall of 2005, with a final confirmation session held in Vancouver in December of that year. In all, more than 60 people were involved in reviewing the requirements. At the *"Resource Stewardship Monitoring, Yearly Review and Continuous*

Improvement" session held in Victoria on February 28th and March 1st, 2006, the working group presented an overview of the business requirements and a mock-up of how the system could look. Last items of feedback were collected and incorporated into the final Requirements Gathering Report and submitted for sign-off by the Project Sponsor.

Proponent Selection and Application Development

In the Spring of 2006, a Request for Proposal was published and the successful proponent has been refining requirements and building the FREP Information Management System (FREP IMS) since that time. The developers work under the direction of the FREP IMS Working Group, headed by Frank Barber of Forest Practices Branch and John Gallimore of IMG.

The first release was planned for the Fall of 2006 but ran into some technical difficulties with migrations to the Ministry. The first release is currently planned for the end of January 2007. Data entry was begun in November of 2006 on a separate database to ensure that a first cut at data analysis could be done by the Resource Value Team Leads in time for the FREP annual meeting at the end of February.

Summary of Key Milestones

- **April 2006:** General Business Requirements Gathering complete
- **May 2006:** Developer selected (CGI)
- **June to October 2006:** Requirements confirmation and development
- **November 16, 2006:** ELAN Data Makers begin entering field data on a separate database (expected completion date: December 31)
- **November 27-December 6, 2006:** User Acceptance Testing Round 1